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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **PIRELLI & C. S.P.A.** [IT/IT]; Via Gaetano Negri, 10, I-20123 MILAN (IT).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ADIGRAT, Antonio** [IT/IT]; Via Giardini, 1, I-85032 TEANA (PZ) (IT). **GRIECO, Stefano** [IT/IT]; Via Serroni, 11, I-84095

GIFFONI VALLEPIANA (SA) (IT). **CARONNA, Valeria** [IT/IT]; Via A. Maiuri, 33, I-84132 SALERNO (IT). **FERRI, Giuseppe** [IT/IT]; Via Bassi, 7, I-84013 CAVA DE' TIRRENI (SA) (IT). **COCCHINI, Franco** [IT/IT]; Via Mercanti, 150, I-84121 SALERNO (IT).

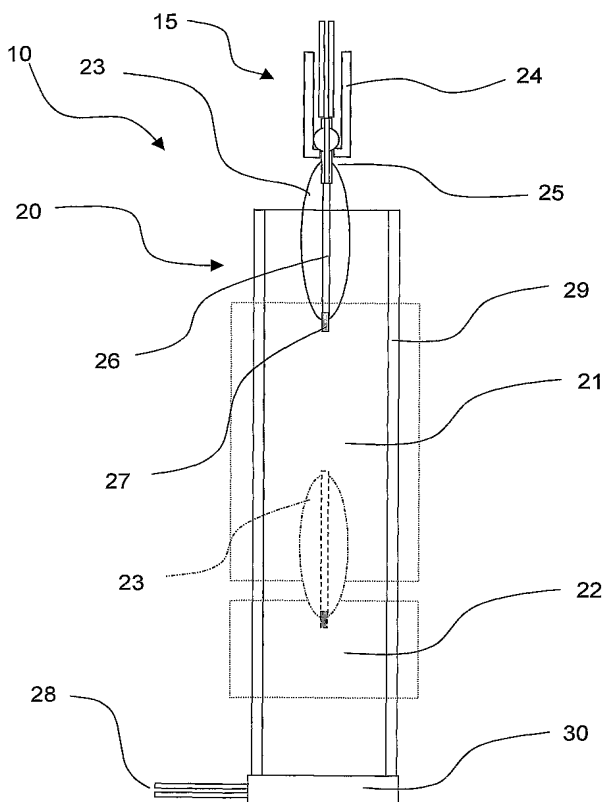
(74) Agents: **COLOMBO, Stefano Paolo** et al.; **MARCHI & PARTNERS S.r.l.**, Via Pirelli, 19, I-20124 MILAN (IT).

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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A LOW-ATTENUATION OPTICAL FIBER



(57) Abstract: A process for producing a low-attenuation optical fiber comprises producing a soot core preform (23) by chemical deposition on a substrate; removing the substrate from the soot core preform (23), thereby forming a central hole (26) along the soot preform (23); drying and consolidating the soot core preform (23) in a consolidation furnace (20) to form a glass core preform (23); heating the glass preform (23) in the consolidation furnace (20) over a glass melting temperature to produce a reduction of the diameter of the central hole (26); and stretching the glass core preform (23) to completely close the central hole.

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